

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image data acquisition method comprising:
 - scanning a sample by a light;
 - receiving a light from the sample, to acquire a
 - 5 scanned image data; and
 - storing the scanned image data obtained by
 - scanning a region of a predetermined size every time a
 - region scanned by the light reaches a predetermined
 - size, sequentially.
- 10 2. The image data acquisition method according to
- claim 1, wherein, the size of the scanned region by the
- light is changed according to an arrangement position
- thereof, when a plurality of measurement objects are
- arranged in the sample.
- 15 3. The image data acquisition method according to
- claim 2, wherein position information on respective
- scanning regions is stored to be added to each item of
- the scanned image data sequentially stored.
4. The image data acquisition method according to
- 20 claim 2, wherein the sample is a DNA microarray in
- which a number of spots are arranged as a measurement
- object, and the size of the scanning region is such
- that a boundary in the scanning region is not
- overlapped on the spot.
- 25 5. The image data acquisition method according to
- claim 2, wherein the scanning by the light is carried
- out by main scanning and sub-scanning in a direction

orthogonal thereto, and adjustment of the size of the scanning region is carried out by regulating the number of scanning lines of the main scanning.

5 6. The image data acquisition method according to
claim 1, wherein an analysis processing is executed for
the stored scanned image data in parallel with scanning
of a next region when the storage of the scanned image
data completes.

10 7. The image data acquisition method according to
claim 6, wherein the sample is a DNA microarray in
which a number of spots are arranged as a measurement
object, and the size of the scanning region is such
that a boundary in the scanning region is not
overlapped on the spot.

15 8. The image data acquisition method according to
claim 1, wherein the scanning by the light is carried
out by main scanning and sub-scanning in a direction
orthogonal thereto, and both of the main scanning and
the sub-scanning are carried out by moving the sample.

20 9. The image data acquisition method according to
claim 1, wherein the scanning by the light is carried
out by main scanning and sub-scanning in a direction
orthogonal thereto, and the main scanning is carried
out by an optical scanner.